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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1.-52. (Canceled)

Claim 53. (Previously presented) A composition comprising microparticle cores coated with a coating layer comprising a biologically active material and a sugar polymer, wherein the resulting microparticles comprise water-soluble forming solid particles selected from two or more of the group consisting of dextrose, starch, gelatin, albumin and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

Claim 54. (Previously presented) The composition according to Claim 53, wherein the resulting coated microparticles are coated with an enteric coating, a film coating, a moisture repellent coating, a taste-masking coating, or a combination of any such coatings.

Claim 55. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a peptide and a cell.

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Claim 56. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, a cytokine, a growth hormone, and/or a combination of any two or more thereof.

Claim 57. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is selected from the group consisting of a human or animal growth hormone, erythropoietin, calcitonin, interferon, interleukin, insulin, and colony stimulating factor.

Claim 58. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is a microorganism.

Claim 59. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 58, wherein said microorganism is *Bifidus* or *Lactobacilli*.

Claim 60. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is an anti-~~diarrhea~~diarrhoea agent.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein the biologically active material is a growth promotant.

Claim 62. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein said microparticles comprise a member selected from the group consisting of an acrylate, acrylate

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derivative, albumin, alginate, carbomer, carrageenan, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, dextran, dextrin, gelatine, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and starch.

Claim 63. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 53, wherein said composition is in the form of an injectable composition, sublingual tablet, oral tablet, sustained release sublingual tablet, microcapsule, pessaries, preconstituted solid dose for nasal spray or drops, aqueous drops, eye wash or drops, skin washing solutions, or a feed premix.